

Requirements for Pasture Nutrient Management Incentive

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) FY2008


Purpose: To encourage proper application of Nutrient Management and Prescribed Grazing practice standards on existing pasture. **Minimum records required: Pasture composition, nutrients (lime and fertilizer) recommended, nutrients applied and date nutrients were applied.** Good managers will be able to reduce nutrient input costs, maintain or increase yields, and reduce nutrient runoff.

Eligible Land: Pasture that is managed according to a Prescribed Grazing Plan on a minimum of 5 paddocks. No additional incentive will be paid for Prescribed Grazing or cost-share for Pasture and Hay Planting in association with this practice on the same acres.

Maximum Acres: 100 acres per year for 3 years maximum

Payment Schedule: Soil testing and application of nutrients according to requirements listed below - \$5.00 per acre

Producer requirements for payment:

1. **University of Tennessee Soil (UT) test or A&L (note: must request Melich 1 test with UT type recommendations) required.**
 - o Soil test according to UT publication  [UT PB1061](#)
 - o Take the soil samples during the same season each year so a trend can be monitored. (Typically the ideal time to soil test is in the fall.) Soil test the first year and the third year.
 - o *Samples should be collected on no more than 10 acres maximum size unit.* Areas of contrasting soils, problem spots or portions of fields where yields are significantly different should be sampled separately, provided the area can be fertilized separately. Examples: bottomland and upland.
2. **Apply lime** as required by soil test (UT soil test recommendation). Lime must be applied the first year when required.
3. **Apply fertilizer by soil test recommendations according to realistic yield goals (3 out of 5 yr average).** Adjust Nitrogen application according to yield goals. Split Nitrogen application as recommended by the University of Tennessee. Fall application of nitrogen on tall fescue pasture is strongly recommended.

4. **Develop a conservation plan with nutrient management as a component with NRCS assistance.** Other practices may be needed to bring the land unit into a minimum resource management system must be included in the conservation plan. This nutrient management incentive payment is used to move individuals into a Resource Management Systems (RMS).
5. **Recordkeeping** is needed in all agricultural operations; soil sampling and fertilizer and lime applications are no exception. Record keeping forms are available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), UT Agriculture Extension Service and others in the agriculture community. Use of these records or another appropriate guidebook system will be required as an aid in recordkeeping and presented annually before receiving incentive payments. *Minimum records required:*
 - *Pasture composition (i.e. t. fescue/white clover),*
 - *Nutrients (lime and fertilizer) recommended,*
 - *Nutrients applied and*
 - *Date nutrients were applied.*
6. **A maximum of 100 acres** is allowed for this incentive payment.
7. **Incentive Payments** for nutrient management will be made each year after the following documentation is received:
 - Copies of the soil test results
 - lime/fertilizer applications are certified applied with date applied, split applications of lime are permitted
 - Minimum records as stated above are completed and submitted.
8. **Implement a rotational grazing plan with a minimum of :**
 - A. **Five paddocks**
 - B. **Minimum grazing height of:** Graze no more than 20 percent of the acreage to less than the minimum grazing height. Confine and feed livestock as needed to protect from overgrazing. Adjust stocking rate, management or inputs as needed to manage grazing heights.
 - 2" for bermudagrass, ryegrass
 - 3" for cool season grasses (e.g. tall fescue, orchardgrass, cereal grains)
 - 6" for tall upright grasses (e.g. native grass, millet, sorghums)